



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0430 Police Immunity and Accountability Act

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Wilkins

**Committee:** Judiciary

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0430 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members believe that police officers should not have qualified immunity. There is no other profession where this happens. In the past, and even today, officers have taken innocent lives because of animus they had towards a whole race of people and walked away with no consequences. That is wrong and needs to be changed.

This bill strips away the qualified immunity that officers currently have. It would make officers who deprive an individual of their Constitutional rights liable for their actions in civil or criminal court. If they are found guilty, they would be required to pay the legal costs of the party bringing suit against them.

The bill would also require that the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission review any cases where an officer was held liable or entered into a settlement agreement to determine if the officer's certification to work should be revoked. Additionally, any local jurisdiction that pays penalties for judgements against an officer can request reimbursement for the lesser of 5% or \$25,000 for the judgement.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.